

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
EXTENSION SERVICE  
Washington 25, D. C.April 25, 1947  
For your informationTO STATE FARM LABOR SUPERVISORS OF Fla., Ga., S.C., N.C., Va., Md., Del., Pa.,  
N.J., N.Y., Conn., Tenn., and Ohio

Subject: Atlantic Coast Migratory Movement

FLORIDA HARVESTS DELAYED

Untimely frosts and heavy rains destroyed many early plantings. Replantings mean later harvests and somewhat smaller acreages.

Smaller acreages have not meant a correspondingly smaller demand for workers because of the necessity to abandon the usual planting routine that is designed to extend picking over a greater number of days. Because of the lateness of the replantings, seed have been put in the ground as rapidly as possible and harvests are telescoped into a smaller number of days than usual. This means an increase in the number of workers needed per acre of production.

During the period between the time the crops that were planted first would have matured and the maturity of the replanted crops, most Florida workers were unemployed and many drifted away leaving a reduced labor force to harvest the replanted crops.

At present the Florida Extension Service finds its resources fully taxed to find enough workers to harvest their reduced plantings during the shortened harvest season.

FEW MIGRANTS NOW ON HIGHWAYS

The information stations at Gross, Florida and at Little Creek, Virginia were opened on April 15. Reports have been received through April 20. These indicate that 64 migrants have passed the Florida Station and 16 the Virginia Station. Not enough data is at hand to substantiate or dispel the general belief that the movement will start later and develop more slowly than usual this season.

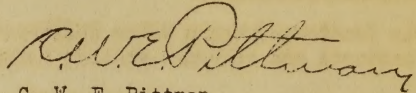
EARLY DEMANDS FOR ASPARAGUS CUTTERS

As usual there has been need for asparagus cutters in April and definite requests for aid have been made on the Extension Service by growers in New Jersey and Delaware. Most of these requests were from growers who did not offer to utilize crew leaders and probably none of these have been filled. Only a very small number of workers and crews, however, have been known to leave for growers whose pattern of employment permit them to utilize crew leaders. This season's experience with April needs does nothing to change the generally held opinion that no large number of Atlantic Coast migrants can at present be relied upon by northern employers for April work.

NO PRESENT LARGE DEMAND FOR MIGRANTS

Outside of Florida, with the exception of the asparagus cutters mentioned above; and some scattered need for production workers, we have no requests for migrants. While it is too early for definite dates of activities to be known, there is every reason to believe insistent demands for seasonal workers will be somewhat later than average in all coastal areas. Workers should be warned to delay leaving home until they have secured definite current information from their employers or the Extension Service.

Very truly yours,



C. W. E. Pittman  
Southeastern Area Director  
Recruitment and Placement Division  
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